

II. AMENDMENTS TO SPECIFICATION

Please replace the originally filed paragraph at Page 19, line 27 – Page 20, line 16, with the following amended paragraph:

Set retarding, or also known as delayed-setting or hydration control, admixtures are used to retard, delay, or slow the rate of setting of concrete. They can be added to the concrete mix upon initial batching or sometime after the hydration process has begun. Set retarders are used to offset the accelerating effect of hot weather on the setting of concrete, or delay the initial set of concrete or grout when difficult conditions of placement occur, or problems of delivery to the job site, or to allow time for special finishing processes. Most set retarders also act as low level water reducers and can also be used to entrain some air into concrete. Lignosulfonates, hydroxylated carboxylic acids, borax, gluconic, tartaric and other organic acids ~~and their corresponding salts~~, phosphonates, certain carbohydrates such as sugars and sugar-acids and mixtures thereof can be used as retarding admixtures. In one embodiment the admixture composition comprises about 0.5% to about 40% set retarder based on the total dry weight of the admixture composition components. In another embodiment the admixture composition comprises about 2% to about 25% set retarder based on the total dry weight of the admixture composition components. In another embodiment a cementitious composition comprises about 0.002% to about 0.2% set retarder by weight of cementitious binder. In a further embodiment a cementitious composition comprises about 0.005% to about 0.08% set retarder by weight of cementitious binder.